

CLAIMS

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1. A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film container and an additional film container having a length of film wound in one of the containers and extending to the other, comprising the steps of:
 4. (a) providing a length of film and attaching a free end to a film winding tool;
 5. (b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil about the tool;
 7. (c) before or after step (b), enclosing the coil in an additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof; and
 9. (d) removing the film winding tool.
1. 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein a film end opposite to said free end is secured to the first film container.
1. 3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the film end opposite to said free end is secured to said first film container after step (c).
1. 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the first film container is a conventional film patron having a central spool, the said film end opposite the free end being secured to the central spool.
1. 5. A method according to claim 1 wherein at step (a) the length of film is provided wound in the first film container and extending through a film slot thereof, the film being unwound from the first film container as the film is wound onto the film winding tool.

1 6. A method according to claim 1 utilizing an additional container which comprises
2 a housing which is closed by an end cap, the method involving, at step (c), winding the film
3 onto the film winding tool, followed by insertion of the tool having the film wound about the
4 tool end into the additional film container.

1 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein after removal of the film winding tool
2 the end cap is secured to the housing.

1 8. A method according to claim 1 wherein the tool end having the leading end of
2 the film secured thereto is inserted into the additional film container, and the tool then rotated
3 to wind the film into the additional container.

1 9. A method according to claim 2 wherein at step (a) the length of film is a bulk
2 roll of film, and wherein the method includes the step of cutting the wound film from the bulk
3 roll after it has been wound onto the film winding tool.

1 10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the first film container is a conventional
2 film patron having a central spool, the trailing end of the film which has been cut from the
3 bulk roll constituting said film end opposite to said free and being secured to a spool of the
4 first film container.

1 11. A method according to claim 1 utilizing an additional film container which
2 comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate to define a film slot
3 therebetween, and a film winding tool aperture, the method involving the step of, in a film
4 winding apparatus, before step (b) providing a first shell half on one side of the film winding

5 tool, followed by securing the second shell half to the first shell half with the film extending
6 through the film slot, and then rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into the
7 additional film container.

1 12. A method according to claim 11 comprising the further steps of withdrawing the
2 tool from the film container and closing the tool winding aperture with a plug.

1 13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the film is unwound from a bulk roll
2 of film, and wherein the method includes the step of cutting the film from the bulk roll after it
3 has been wound into the additional container.

1 14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the free end of the film cut from the
2 bulk roll is secured to the first film container, the first film container being a conventional film
3 patron having a central spool to which the free end is secured.

1 15. A method according to claim 1 utilizing an additional film container which
2 comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate to define a film slot
3 therebetween, the method involving the step of, in a film winding apparatus, after step (b),
4 removing the film winding tool, followed by enclosing the wound coil between the two half
5 shells, with the film extending from the film slot.

1 16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the film is unwound from a bulk roll
2 of film, and wherein the method includes the step of cutting the film from the bulk roll after it
3 has been wound into the coil and before it is enclosed in the additional container.

1 17. A method according to claim 16 wherein the first container is a conventional

2 film patronc having a central spool, the free end of the film cut from the bulk roll being
3 secured to the central spool of the film patronc.

1 18. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of attaching a
2 removable clip to secure the first film container and additional film container together.

1 19. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of inserting the
2 assembly of first film container and additional film container into a package which is sealed to
3 contain the film containers.

1 20. A film assembly when loaded according to the method of claim 1.

1 21. A camera when loaded with a film assembly according to claim 20.

1 22. A method of loading a film assembly into a camera having a pair of film
2 chambers arranged on opposite sides of an exposure opening and a camera back which closes
3 the film chambers comprising the steps of:

- 4 (a) providing a first film container;
- 5 (b) providing a length of film and attaching a free 5 end to a film winding tool;
- 6 (c) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil
7 about the tool;
- 8 (d) before or after step (c), enclosing the coil in an additional film container so that
9 the film extends through a film slot thereof;
- 10 (e) removing the film winding tool; and
- 11 (f) placing the film assembly in the camera with the containers in respective

12 chambers and closing the camera back.

1 23. A method according to claim 22 wherein the film carries pre-exposed latent
2 images, the method involving at step (f) the additional step of ensuring that an alignment mark
3 on the film is arranged in alignment with an alignment mark on the camera so as to ensure
4 correct alignment of user-exposed images and pre-exposed images.

1 33. A method of film winding comprising the steps of:

- 2 (a) withdrawing the free end of a film from a first film cassette and attaching a film
3 winding tool thereto;
- 4 (b) in a dark environment, rotating the film winding tool to wind the film out of the
5 first film container around the film winding tool;
- 6 (c) before or after step (b), inserting the end of film winding tool having the film
7 secured thereto into an open second spoolless film container;
- 8 (d) withdrawing the film winding tool; and
- 9 (e) attaching an end cap to the open end of the second film container to render this
10 light-tight.

1 34. A method according to claim 33 wherein the film is wound out of the first film
2 container onto the film winding tool, followed by insertion of the tool having the film wound
3 about the tool into the second film container.

1 35. A method according to claim 33 wherein the tool end having the leading end of
2 the film secured thereto is inserted into the second film container, and the tool then rotated to
3 wind the film into the second container.

1 36. A method according to claim 33 further comprising the step of attaching a
2 removable clip to secure the first and second film containers together.

1 37. A method according to claim 33 further comprising the step of inserting the film
2 containers into a package which is sealed to contain the film containers.

1 38. A method of loading film into a camera having a pair of film chambers arranged
2 on opposite sides of an exposure opening, and a camera back which closes the chambers
3 comprising the steps of:

- 4 (a) withdrawing the free end of a film from a first film cassette and attaching a film
5 winding tool thereto;
- 6 (b) in a dark environment, rotating the film winding tool to wind the film out of the
7 first film container around the tool;
- 8 (c) before or after step (b), inserting the end of film winding tool having the film
9 secured thereto into an open second spoolless film container;
- 10 (d) attaching an end cap to the open end of the second film container to render this
11 light-tight;
- 12 (e) with the back open, inserting the first and second containers into the respective
13 chambers with the film extending therebetween; and
- 14 (f) closing the camera back.

1 39. A method according to claim 38 wherein the film is wound out of the first film
2 container onto the film winding tool, followed by insertion of the tool having the film wound
3 about the tool into the second film container.

1 40. A method according to claim 38 wherein the tool end having the leading end of
2 the film secured thereto is inserted into the second film container, and the tool then rotated to
3 wind the film into the second container.

1 41. A method according to claim 38 wherein the camera includes a removable plate
2 which closes the bottom of the chamber which receives the first container, the method further
3 comprising the step of fitting the plate to close said chamber bottom.

1 42. A method according to claim 41 wherein before step (e) an empty second
2 container from a previous use of the camera is removed.